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A New Species of the Genus *Pseudisobrachium* from Hong Kong (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Bethylidae)

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A new species of the bethylid wasp genus *Pseudisobrachium* Kieffer, 1904, is described under the name of *P. hongkongense* based on a female from Hong Kong. This is a third Oriental species of this genus and is the first record of the genus from Hong Kong.

Key Words: Hymenoptera, Bethylidae, *Pseudisobrachium*, new species, Hong Kong.

Introduction

The genus *Pseudisobrachium* Kieffer, 1904, belonging to the subfamily Pristocerinae of the family Bethylidae, is represented by 136 species, most of which are distributed in the New World (117 species), and a few in the Palaearctic (8 spp.), the Ethiopian (9 spp.) and the Oriental (2 spp.) Regions (Gordth and Móczár 1990). Of the 136 species, 35 are known only from females, and only 10 have been known for male-female associations. All the *Pseudisobrachium* species show distinct sexual dimorphism; males are fully winged and have ocelli, whereas females are completely apterous and lack ocelli. Therefore, conspecificity of specimens belonging to different sexes is usually very difficult to determine, unless a certain number of specimens of the two sexes captured at the same time and place are available. The females are often taken in ant nests, and it is suggested that they are parasites of myrmecophilous beetle larvae (Evans 1961, 1964).

In this paper, I describe a new species of this genus from Hong Kong.

Measurements, indices and terms used in this paper follow those in Evans (1964, 1978).

Pseudisobrachium hongkongense sp. nov.
(Figs 1－3)

Holotype. Female. LH 1.00mm; WH 0.73mm; LT 1.08mm; length of propodeum 0.83mm; width of propodeal disc 0.43mm; total body length 5.8mm.

Head and mesosoma blackish; gaster brown; mandible and antenna reddish brown; legs yellow.

Head 1.37 × as long as wide, gradually narrowed behind, with straight posterior

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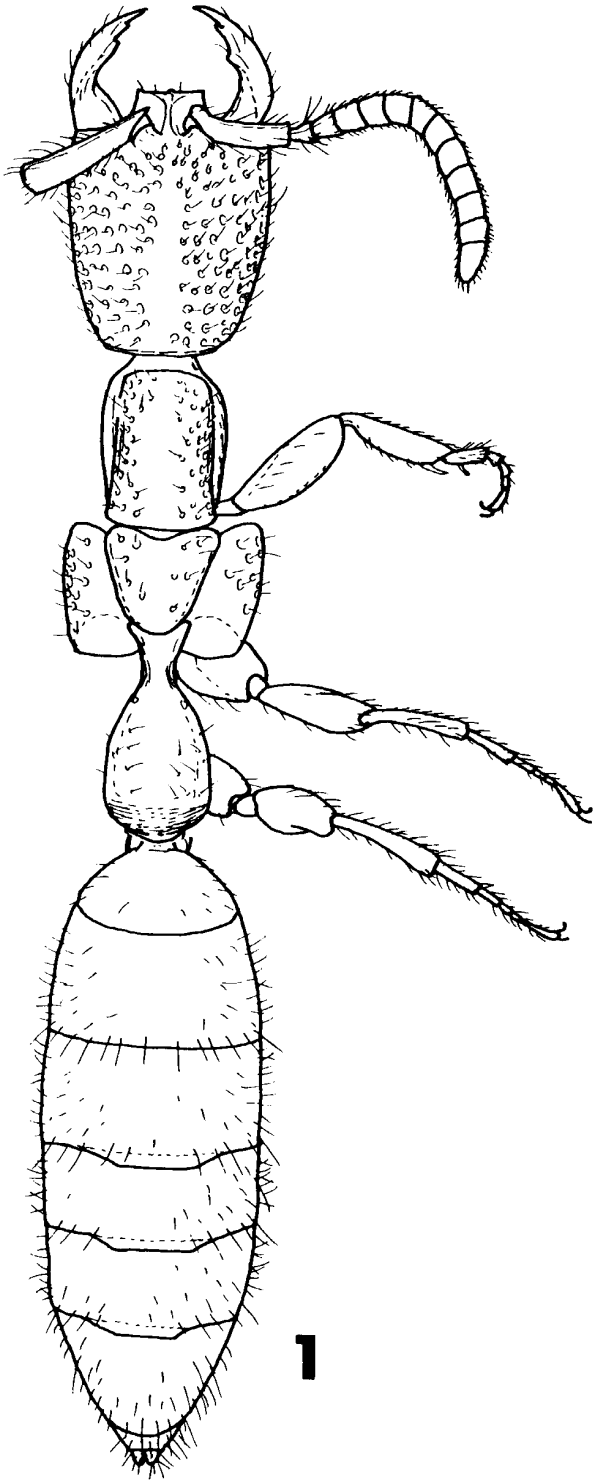

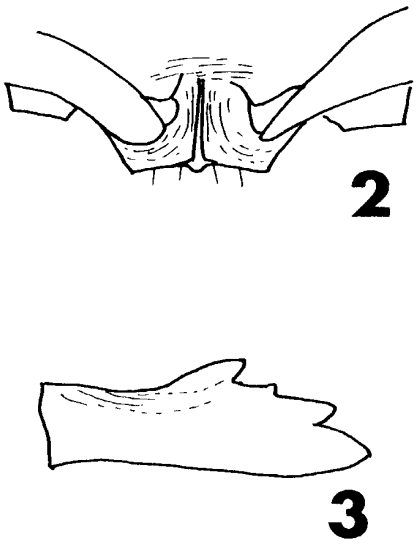

Figs 1—3. *Pseudisobrachium hongkongense* sp. nov., female. —1, body, dorsal view; 2, clypeus; 3, mandible.

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margin in frontal view; front with large punctures, interspaces being smooth. Right mandible with 4 teeth (teeth of left mandible broken); basalmost relatively large and projecting, 2nd smallest, and apical largest. Clypeus trapezoidal, with a small median angulation. First 5 segments of antenna in a ratio of about 20:4:4:4:4 in length; scape long, 4.0×as long as wide, broadest at apex; 2nd to 5th segments each almost as long as wide. Eyeless.

Pronotum excluding collar 2.1×as long as wide in dorsal view; 0.33mm in width; dorsal surface with strong punctures except for median area which is impunctate, interspaces being smooth; lateral surfaces microreticulate. Mesonotum 1.1×as wide as long, with scattered large punctures and smooth interspaces. Propodeum 1.9×as long as wide; maximum width 3.0×minimum width; surface with scattered punctures and smooth interspaces. Mesopleuron moderately punctate, interspaces mostly smooth.

Gaster sessile, 0.58mm in dorsal maximum width. Middle tibia spinose.

Holotype. Female, Taipo, Hong Kong, 1. IV. 1989, M. Terayama leg.

Type depository. The National Institute of Agro-Environmental Sciences, Tsukuba.

Etymology. This species is named after its type locality.

Remarks. This species, described on the basis of a single female specimen, is distinguished from females of the other congeners by a combination of the following characteristics: head gradually narrowed behind in dorsal view; mandible with 4 teeth; basal tooth of mandible relatively large and distinct; eyes absent.

This is a third species of this genus from the Oriental Region. The other two species, *P. unidens* Kieffer, 1922, and *P. philippinarum* Kieffer, 1922, are known from the Philippines (Kieffer 1922). The female of *P. unidens* is unknown, and so direct comparison with the present material is impossible. The female of *P. philippinarum* has bidentate mandibles and smaller body size (ca. 4mm).

The present specimen was taken from leaf-litter on the ground of an evergreen broad-leaved natural forest. This suggests that *P. hongkongense* is native to Hong Kong.

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